

# The Woman's Page of The Times-Dispatch

## Big Society Kirmess

To feed and clothe the poor within our gates, the cup of cold water, the kindness of a loving heart, all these are embraced in what we call "charity." But it must be organized charity, because any one with half an eye may see the harm that indiscriminate giving can and does do. One is not able to discern at a front entrance on a stormy evening the differences between the professional beggar and the really destitute and suffering being that chance may have drifted to your door. Thus it is that the city has united the charities as far as possible, under one great head, the Associated Charities, from which settlement alms may be dispensed. The kirmess to be given here this week is for the Associated Charities, as well as the Confederate Memorial Literary Society, and the people of Richmond have been asked in the name of sweet charity to attend the entertainment, and so contribute to a great cause.

Surely there could be no better time than Thanksgiving for a charity play. Our hearts are all warm and soft with the remembrance of good things in our lives and with lavish palms turned toward the world for the world's greater, better kindnesses toward those less fortunate than ourselves. Henry Harrison's "V. V.'s Eyes," with its scene laid in Richmond and its wonderfully drawn drama about the old Ballard House, has shown in no uncertain terms the strength and power of united effort, where charity is concerned. He has told the world the ancient story that all men are your mother and your father and your brethren in new words and golden phrases, that we may come to realize that food and clothing are not charity alone, that we may understand that it is no man's God-given privilege to grind the poor to dust, turning magnanimously, when it is too late, to build them playgrounds and gymnasiums and better homes.

Oh! charity is as wide as the earth and as high as the heavens and deep as the sea, but it must have love and it must have interest and it must have genuine effort behind it to really aid and uplift. The Associated Charities has tried with all its might to work in just such a manner, but it must have funds, and you and I must help. They stand at the door of your life, these destitute ones, whom we would reach, and they ask alms, bread—not a stone. The work is so great and the laborers very few. The women of Richmond are trying to make this kirmess a success, that burdens may be lifted and hearts made light. It is Thanksgiving time, and the whole land is celebrating a feast of good will.

### A Gift Shop.

Have you seen it? It is the dearest little place in the world within the confines of a parlor and arranged in a setting of old furnishings and a cozy open fire. It is a gift shop at 378 West Grace Street, and the whole place is filled with the most wonderful assortment of pretty, fluffy things. The place was only opened last Tuesday, and may possibly be continued until the middle of next month, but the whole room is fairly radiant with all sorts and conditions of bags, fascinating embroideries and beautiful doll-babies dressed as only a Christmas doll can be dressed, in all the glory of silk pieces and lace remnants. There are various kinds of pincushions—fat, elegant pincushions, and tiny pink and white affairs and long, formidable ones stuck with every kind of pin imaginable. One of the most interesting features of this little shop, where you may choose a gift at your leisure, is a big mammy doll. This high-toned and aristocratic Numidian is actually made of papier mache, that once, a long time ago, was innumerable copies of. The Times-Dispatch, and she has taken prize after prize at many fairs of importance. She is only one example of the ingenuity of woman.

Straying about this pretty room, you find baskets of any size, pottery, candlesticks, fruit cakes and mince meat, embroidered handkerchiefs and towels and a perfectly fascinating array of all sorts of holiday gifts. It is a real oasis of pretty things, after the turmoil and rush of the big stores, and it is one of the things that women are doing in Richmond. A gift shop is part and parcel of the civilization and advancement of every other town you hear about. Now we have one of our own. Go and see it.

BRENT WITT.

### Things to Know.

To make hard sauce quickly in winter when the butter is hard, pour about two tablespoonfuls of boiling water on the butter, add sugar immediately and beat.

It will be white and creamy in less than five minutes, and the boiling water is an improvement, if anything.

This applies equally well when mixing the butter and sugar for a cake. The measurement of the other ingredients remains the same.

The proper way to wash a knitted coat is as follows: Make a good lather and dip the coat up and down in it till all the dirt is extracted. Then rinse it in warm water (taking care not to wring the coat at all) and put it into a pillow slip. Pin this on to a clothesline on a dry, windy day, and when the coat is nearly dry take it out and put it on a coat hanger to finish drying.

If you stuff a few newspapers in the sleeves, they will hang better.

Another way of working knot stitch and other raised designs has been invented by an ingenious manufacturer for the woman that is pressed for time.

Embroidery cotton has been twisted and mounted upon a curved wire covered to match the cotton, and this is to be laid upon the design and secured invisibly to the material.

## FRECKLE-FACE

Sun and Wind Bring Out Ugly Spots. How to Remove Easily.

Here's a chance, Miss Freckle-Face, to try a remedy for freckles with the guarantee of a reliable dealer that it will not cost you a penny unless it removes the freckles; while if it does give you a clear complexion the expense is trifling.

Simply get an ounce of othine—double strength—from Tragle Drug Co., and a few applications should show you how easily it is to rid yourself of the homely freckles and get a beautiful complexion. Rarely is more than one ounce needed for the worst case.

Be sure to ask the druggist for the double strength othine, as this is the prescription sold under guarantee of money back if it fails to remove freckles.—Advertisement.

## The New Tunic

Some call it the "lampshade" and others designate it a "hoop" tunic, but in each case it is wired, which is the distinguishing mark.

Would you like to know how this new tunic invaded fashionland? Well, Paul Poiret, that master designer of Paris, was honored by the Theatre Renaissance, of Paris, in having his direction asked in the staging of an Oriental play called "La Minaret." It is laid in Bagdad, within a harem, a perfect opportunity being afforded for the exploitation of Eastern styles. Into the picture Poiret led the tunic of tulle that stood out from the hips in the new line. The whole play was so beautifully presented that every costume was applauded—and copied. The wired tunic has stood the test of criticism and usage, and here it is in many forms on afternoon and evening dresses.

Lace is the fabric most easily shaped on the new lines. The flouncing in one-half yard width, with either a straight or scalloped edge, can be wired and pinched into shape. It is frequently edged with fur, and will change an old dress in a very short time into a very reasonable gown.

When it is shaped it need not be kept the same length all around, but can be made shorter in front, giving the new upward curve. The fulness can be pleated around the hips or cut in long points and overlapped and fitted around the hips.

The lower line is modified in many ways. You can suit yourself when cutting the edge. But don't forget the wire.

## HOME-MADE FAVORS FOR THANKSGIVING

The Thanksgiving feast is an event anticipated during the entire year, for oftentimes it means the family reunion. The married members of the family exert every effort to bring their children home to grandma's for Thanksgiving, and it becomes an occasion for great rejoicing. For weeks the smoothly running wheels of grandmother's household revolve in preparation for the Thanksgiving spread, and since this has been colonized in song and story, she has a reputation to live up to. Much of the success of any feast depends upon the table decorations, and it is an extremely simple matter to make the Thanksgiving table attractive. The purpose of this festive is to give thanks for the blessings of the year, among which are numbered the fruits, vegetables and grains, so the centerpiece should be a mound formed of these edibles. They can be attractively arranged in an overturned basket, or a huge pumpkin hollowed out. If you have collected branches of autumn leaves or corn husks, mix these with the fruit and vegetables.

Colonial candlesticks are a proud possession of many families, and they can be artistically decorated in the following manner: Take the husks of corn and tie them about the base of the candlestick with yellow, green or red ribbon. Cover the shades with autumn leaves arranged in rows which overlap each other. If you do not happen to have these materials, they are purchasable, made of paper, at the shops where paper novelties are sold. The corn husks and autumn leaves come in bundles, which are inexpensive and so realistic that you can scarcely detect them from the genuine leaves and husks. The paper or wire forms for the candlesticks can be had at the same place.

Appropriate favors for the guests should always be provided for the Thanksgiving feast, and the suggestions offered here will prove a help to the hostess if she desires to fashion the favors at home.

To make a Priscilla doll, purchase an inexpensive small doll and dress her with scraps from the patchbag. The frock should be of gray or brown material, and over this is arranged a felt, cuffs and apron of white lawn or white tissue paper. The Puritan cap is fashioned of the same material and consists of a straight band, which frames the face, joined to a puffed crown.

Tissue or crepe paper in tones of gray or brown and white may be substituted for the fabrics if desired.

Attractive little holders for bonbons can be made of paper in the form of a pumpkin. Purchase several small holders of pleated paper and pad the sides with cotton until they are well-rounded like a pumpkin. Cover this with pumpkin-yellow crepe paper, attach a spray of pumpkin leaves, cut from green paper, to the base of the holder. The pumpkin bonbon dish may be fringed with leaves if you consider this more effective.

A pretty idea is to conceal the hollowed cup with a small pumpkin, hollowed out to a depth to fit easily over the cup. Select perfect pumpkins with the stems attached, which serves to lift them from the cup. If you have small bowls the size of a cup, fit them into the pumpkins, and cut the top off as you would for a jack-o'-lantern. When the steaming bouillon is poured into the cups, fit the lid in place, and it will retain the heat.

Puritan hats are appropriate holders for salted nuts, and since they are so extremely simple to make, the children can assist in the fashioning of the favors.

From gray or brown cardboard of a flexible quality cut a circular piece of cardboard four and a half inches in diameter and from the center of this cut a disk whose diameter is two and a quarter inches.

To this join a strip of cardboard three inches wide, and long enough to encircle the opening in the brim. Join the ends of this strip to form a cylindrical collar, and with a needle and thread join this crown to the brim. Line the inside with paraffin paper, and place the salted nuts in the inverted hat; or you can place the hat with the brim flat against the table and heap the nuts up in mound fashion above the open crown.

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Decorate the place cards with sketches, suitable for the occasion. Pumpkins, shocks of corn, a fireplace or grapes are decorative. Draw these designs on water-color paper of a fine grain, and tint them with water-color paints in the hues of nature.

Another feature of decoration for the Thanksgiving feast is to suspend small pumpkins, ropes of autumn leaves, grapevines or fruit from the chandelier by means of yellow ribbons. Begin to make them to-day; you will find the work fascinating.

## Rules for Cake-Making

A well-known cooking instructor tells her pupils:

No oven thermometer has yet proved practical—experience alone has proved the most reliable teacher.

In baking cake divide the time required into quarters. First quarter, mixture should begin to rise. Second quarter, continue rising and begin to brown. Third quarter, continue browning. Fourth quarter, finish baking and shrink from pan.

If you are too hot open check and raise back covers or open oven door.

It is sometimes necessary to cover cake with brown paper; there is, however, danger of cake adhering to the paper.

Cake should be often looked at during baking; provided oven door is opened and closed carefully there is no danger of cake falling.

Cake should not be moved in oven until fully risen; after this time it is desirable to move it, so that it will brown evenly.

Cake when done shrinks from the pan and does not retain indentation when pressed with the finger.

Place cake as nearly in center of oven as possible. If too near firebox one side will burn before the other side is cooked.

If cake is put in too slow oven it rises over sides of pan and is coarse in texture. If oven is too hot it browns before sufficiently risen, and in its attempt to rise breaks through the crust.

Cake will crack if too much flour has been used.

The oven should be kept as nearly uniform in temperature as possible. Small and layer cakes require a hotter oven than loaf cakes.

## Making Home Sewing Easier

"Home dressmaking is a matter of careful basting," said a woman who, without any instruction whatever, made the prettiest dresses imaginable. This, too, was before the days of the modern high-class pattern. So, with careful basting, and one of the new patterns, there is no reason why certain gowns in the wardrobe should not be successfully made by the veriest type.

There are many women who do not know about the high-class pattern, except that it is a little more expensive than the popular graded styles. In most cases, it is a pattern that is cut, not by the hundred, but by a dressmaker who copies it from the model, and who writes the instruction on the pattern itself.

The front is written on the front, the top, the hem, the place to gather tuck and drapes are also indicated in the very plainest way, so that it is simple and easy to put together, no misunderstanding can ensue. Things can be done in a style way that cannot be done with an ordinary pattern. The sketch should be pinned up in front of the dressmaker's reference and to help in the correct interpretation on the style lines, for it is here that the home dressmaker will trip, if at all. Styles this year, with their simple tunics and draperies and general unfitted look, make home dressmaking extremely simple, while the effect is just the opposite.

Every one has some kind of a dress form at home now. A standing figure may be bought for a few dollars in some of the shops. The difficulty of these inexpensive forms is that the proportions are not always right. If, however, the hip size is right (for it is likely to be too large for the rest of the figure), the matter is easily remedied. Nearly every one has at home an old waist lining or a waist that fitted beautifully. If the surplus trimming and material are ripped or cut off it is simple. This is tried over a dress form till one is found that it fits nearest. Then all that is necessary is to stuff out the spaces between the form and the lining where it does not fit with excelsior, cotton wadding, old newspapers or tissue paper, and there you have the form on which to hang, trim or fit your waist.

The skirt is done in the same manner. An old petticoat that fits over the hips is stuffed out in the same way, and it is a good idea in these days of narrow skirts to weight the hem of it. If one of the dress forms that can be bought from about \$12, and will fit every member of the family, can be invested in, of course, this simplifies matters. If not, the time taken to make the other will amply repay the woman who wishes to make a dress that will bear comparison with those of the same set she moves in.

### In Praise of Woman.

Professor Hugo Munsterberg, author of the much-discussed "Psychology and Industrial Efficiency," whose experiments to determine the efficiency of many types of industrial workers through psychological tests have awakened widespread interest throughout this country, recently made the statement that women form their opinions and judgments just as rapidly and accurately as men. After experimenting with a group of Harvard men and Radcliffe women, Mr. Munsterberg also came to the conclusion that once women have formed their opinion, they stick to it, and no amount of discussion can change it.—Exchange.

### When it Rains.

Have you ever found it a difficult proposition to amuse yourself on a rainy day? Others are equally restless when it storms, so why not invite them to your house and help them to forget the disagreeable weather? You probably belong to a club of some description and desire to entertain its members in a unique manner. This is your opportunity—invite them to a "rainy-day party!"

Arrange at one of the meetings that the club is to assemble at your home when next it rains; and if a sewing club, the ladies bring their sewing and stitch away while engaging in an interesting conversation with the others. Should the club happen to be literary, have a suitable program arranged; if musical, you will experience little difficulty in finding entertainment; and if civic, discuss a topic of interest to all the members.

Instead of serving luncheon, invite your guests to remain for 6 o'clock supper, and have an equal number of men come for the evening's fun.

The table decorations are usually the most interesting feature of the feast, and the rainy-day party offers a wide scope for originality.

For the centerpiece take an ordinary black umbrella and line it with silver paper. Suspend this by the tip over the table or fit the handle into a block of wood, which can be covered with a mound of flowers. The latter arrangement is far more effective. From the tip of each steel rib suspend a shower of flowers or tiny favors.

Another pretty idea would be to have ribbons, the seven colors of the spectrum, which appear in the rainbow, attached to the chandelier and extending to the edge of the table, where they terminate in bows.

For place cards have tiny umbrellas cut from watercolor paper and tinted with watercolor paints the tones to correspond with the ribbons. Supply suitable favors for the evening's fun. A toy shop where is sold a variety of rainy-day garments for dolls. These are tiny raincoats, overshoes, umbrellas and rubber boots, which are perfect duplicates of the larger ones, and are surprisingly inexpensive.

The following menu is appropriate for an occasion of this sort:

Chicken Salad or Creamed Oysters.  
Nut Sandwiches.  
Cream Cheese Sandwiches.  
Olives, Salted Nuts, Bonbons.  
Ice Cream Cakes.  
Coffee or Chocolate.

When preparing for the rainy-day party make enough sandwiches and supply a sufficient quantity of ice cream, cakes, coffee and bonbons for the evening's refreshments.

After supper have an impromptu dance, musical, amateur theatricals or tableaux vivants. The latter two are a source of great amusement, for the performances and costumes are fashioned by means of discarded garments, old draperies, lace curtains, etc. The posing of the subjects should be entrusted to a clever, humorous person, who can make the most of her opportunity to furnish entertainment for the guests.

If expense is no consideration, have a frame built of pine wood and painted black. At the base arrange a platform where the tableaux are posed.

There are many rainy days during the year, so take advantage of at least one and rout melancholia by entertaining your friends at a "rainy-day party."